

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:19-cv-00070-TNM**

BUZZFEED, INC. v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Assigned to: Judge Trevor N. McFadden  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 01/11/2019  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**BUZZFEED, INC.**

represented by **Matthew Topic**  
LOEVY & LOEVY  
311 N. Aberdeen Street  
Third Floor  
Chicago, IL 60607  
(312) 243-5900  
Fax: (312) 243-5902  
Email: [matt@loevy.com](mailto:matt@loevy.com)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Matthew Lynn Schafer**  
BUZZFEED INC.  
111 East 18th Street  
14th Floor  
New York, NY 10003  
(646) 798-0693  
Fax: (212) 431-7461  
Email: [matthew.schafer@buzzfeed.com](mailto:matthew.schafer@buzzfeed.com)  
**TERMINATED: 03/04/2019**

**Merrick Jason Wayne**  
LOEVY & LOEVY  
311 N. Aberdeen Street  
Third Floor  
Chicago, IL 60607  
(312) 243-5900  
Fax: (312) 243-5902  
Email: [merrick@loevy.com](mailto:merrick@loevy.com)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

represented by **Christopher Charles Hair**  
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
555 Fourth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
(202) 252-2541  
Fax: (202) 252-2599  
Email: [christopher.hair@usdoj.gov](mailto:christopher.hair@usdoj.gov)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Damon William Taaffe**  
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
555 Fourth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

(202) 252-2544  
 Fax: (202) 252-2599  
 Email: [damon.taaffe@usdoj.gov](mailto:damon.taaffe@usdoj.gov)  
 TERMINATED: 02/15/2019

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
01/11/2019	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-5884664) filed by BUZZFEED, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A – Geidner Request, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B – Geidner Acknowledgment, # <u>3</u> Exhibit C – Tillman Request, # <u>4</u> Exhibit D – Tillman Acknowledgment, # <u>5</u> Exhibit E – DEO Correspondence, # <u>6</u> Exhibit F – JMD Correspondence, # <u>7</u> Exhibit G – Subsequent JMD Correspondence, # <u>8</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>9</u> Summons)(Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 01/11/2019)
01/15/2019		Case Assigned to Judge Trevor N. McFadden. (zsb) (Entered: 01/15/2019)
01/15/2019	<u>2</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zsb) (Entered: 01/15/2019)
01/15/2019	<u>3</u>	STANDING ORDER establishing procedures for cases before Judge Trevor N. McFadden. The parties are hereby ORDERED to read and comply with the directives in the attached Order. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 1/15/2019. (lctnm3) (Entered: 01/15/2019)
01/16/2019	<u>4</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by BUZZFEED, INC. (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 01/16/2019)
01/23/2019	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 1/23/2019. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 2/22/2019. (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 01/23/2019)
01/23/2019	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 01/23/2019. (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 01/23/2019)
01/23/2019	<u>7</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE served on 1/23/2019 (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 01/23/2019)
01/23/2019	<u>8</u>	ERRATA ( <i>Date of Receipt of Summonses</i> ) by BUZZFEED, INC. <u>5</u> Summons Returned Executed in FOIA as to U.S. Attorney, <u>6</u> Summons Returned Executed as to U.S. Attorney General. (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 01/23/2019)
01/29/2019	<u>9</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Damon William Taaffe on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 01/29/2019)
02/15/2019	<u>10</u>	NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Christopher Charles Hair on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 02/15/2019)
02/22/2019	<u>11</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.(Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 02/22/2019)
02/22/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Before the Court are a complaint and an answer in this FOIA case. It is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall meet and confer and file a Joint Status Report proposing a schedule for proceeding in this matter. The schedule should address, among other things, the status of the Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by the Plaintiff, whether a motion for an Open America stay is likely in this case, whether a Vaughn index will be required in this case, and a briefing schedule for dispositive motions, if required. The parties shall file the schedule on or before March 15, 2019. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 2/22/2019. (lctnm3) (Entered: 02/22/2019)
02/25/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 3/15/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 02/25/2019)

03/01/2019	<u>12</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Matthew Topic on behalf of BUZZFEED, INC. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/01/2019)
03/04/2019	<u>13</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to BUZZFEED, INC.. Attorney Matthew Lynn Schafer terminated. (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 03/04/2019)
03/06/2019	<u>14</u>	Amended ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.(Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 03/06/2019)
03/15/2019	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 03/15/2019)
03/18/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>15</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that a further update shall be filed on or before April 15, 2019. This report shall propose a schedule for further proceedings as necessary. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 3/18/2019. (lctnm3) (Entered: 03/18/2019)
03/18/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 4/15/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 03/18/2019)
04/15/2019	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT <i>and proposed briefing schedule</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 04/15/2019)
04/17/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>16</u> Joint Status Report, the following briefing schedule is hereby ORDERED. The Defendant shall file a motion for summary judgment on or before May 31, 2019. The Plaintiff shall file its opposition and any cross-motion for summary judgment on or before June 28, 2019. The Defendant shall file its reply and any opposition on or before July 19, 2019. The Plaintiff shall file its reply on or before August 9, 2019. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 4/17/2019. (lctnm3) (Entered: 04/17/2019)
04/17/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's motion for summary judgment due by 5/31/2019. Plaintiff's opposition and cross-motion due by 6/28/2019. Defendant's reply and opposition due by 7/19/2019. Plaintiff's reply due by 8/9/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 04/17/2019)
05/31/2019	<u>17</u>	MOTION for Summary Judgment by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Memorandum in Support, # <u>2</u> Statement of Facts, # <u>3</u> Text of Proposed Order, # <u>4</u> Declaration of Cynthia Shaw and Vaughn Index)(Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 05/31/2019)
06/28/2019	<u>18</u>	MOTION for Summary Judgment by BUZZFEED, INC. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Memorandum in Support Memorandum, # <u>2</u> Exhibit Plaintiff's Response to Defendant's Statement of Material Facts, # <u>3</u> Text of Proposed Order Proposed Order)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 06/28/2019)
06/28/2019	<u>19</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>17</u> MOTION for Summary Judgment filed by BUZZFEED, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Plaintiff's Response to Defendant's Statement of Material Facts, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order Proposed Order)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 06/28/2019)
07/19/2019	<u>20</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>18</u> MOTION for Summary Judgment filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of Cynthia Shaw (supplemental) and updated Vaughn index)(Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 07/19/2019)
07/19/2019	<u>21</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>17</u> MOTION for Summary Judgment filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 07/19/2019)
08/06/2019	<u>22</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Merrick Jason Wayne on behalf of BUZZFEED, INC. (Wayne, Merrick) (Entered: 08/06/2019)
08/09/2019	<u>23</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>18</u> MOTION for Summary Judgment filed by BUZZFEED, INC.. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 08/09/2019)